

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CPR-02 PM-09 NSC-10 M-03 OPR-02 PA-03

RSC-01 SS-14 SY-07 USIA-12 PRS-01 A-01 CIAE-00 INR-09

NSAE-00 RSR-01 /090 W

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R 231247 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1739

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 4705

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY GREEN FROM UNGER

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, TH

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REF: STATE 050717

1. UPON RECEIPT OF REFTEL MORNING MAR 21 MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT WAS IMMEDIATELY TRANSMITTED THROUGH MOM LUANG THAWISAN LADAWAN, PRINCIAL PRIVATE SECRETARY TO HIS MAJESTY THE KING. LATER THAT DAY WE RECEIVED INDICATIONS OF APPRECIATION OF THE INVITATION BUT OF THE PROBABILITY THAT HIS MAJESTY WOULD FEEL OBLIGED TO DECLINE BECAUSE OF FACTORS SIMILAR TO THOSE WHICH LED HIM TO DECLINE ON EARLIER OCCASION. (BANGKOK 3380, 3/11/71.) AT SAME TIME WE WERE URGED TO PROVIDE AS MUCH BACKGROUND AS POSSIBLE, AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, FOR HIS MAJESTY' S CONSIDERATION BEFORE HE REACHED HIS DECISION.

2. WITH THIS IN MIND I MADE TELEPHONIC REQUEST TO WHICH STATE 052761 WAS SENT BY YOU AS HELPFUL REPLY. I ALSO TOLD THAWISAN THAT I UNDERSTOOD HIS MAJESTY WAS PREPARING TO LEAVE FOR HUA HIN AND WAS UNDOUBTEDLY VERY BUSY AT THE MOMENT AND THAT HE SHOULD NOT FEEL PRESSED TO MAKE IMMEDIATE RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT' S INVITATION. IT WAS MY HOPE THAT INFORMATION RECEIVED IN RESPONSE TO TELEPHONIC REQUEST MIGHT
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BE HELPFUL IN ENCOURAGING KING TO ACCEPT.

3. HOWEVER TODAY BEFORE CONTENTS OF STATE 052761 COULD BE PASSED ALONG, THAWISAN CALLED ON ME TO CONVEY TO PRESIDENT NIXON THEIR MAJESTIES' DEEP APPRECIATION AND THANKS FOR THE INVITATION BUT THEIR REGRET THAT IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO ACCEPT. WHILE REFERENCE WAS MADE TO PREVIOUS ENGAGEMENTS WHICH PRECLUDED TRAVELLING TO THE UNITED STATES THAWISAN SAID HIS MAJESTY WISHED TO EXPLAIN THAT HE CONTINUED TO FEEL THAT, UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, HE SHOULD OR COULD NOT LEAVE THE COUNTRY AND THEIR MAJESTIES FELT OBLIGED TO USE WHATEVER FREE TIME THEY MIGHT HAVE FOR VISITS ESPECIALLY TO THE POPULATIONS IN REMOTE AREAS OF THE KINGDOM. THAWISAN ALSO MENTIONED THAT THEIR MAJESTIES HAVE BEEN PRESSED FOR SOME TIME TO ACCEPT OTHER INVITATIONS FOR STATE VISITS WHICH THEY HAVE RESISTED AND IT WOULD PUT THEM IN AN INVIDIOUS POSITION WERE THEY TO GO TO THE US. A FULLER RECORD OF OUR CONVERSATIONS ON THIS SUBJECT IS CONTAINED IN MEMCONS BEING POUCHED.

4. COMMENT: I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT HIS MAJESTY SINCERELY REGRETTED BEING OBLIGED TO DECLINE THE PRESIDENT' INVITATION ONCE MORE BUT I ALSO AM PERSUADED THAT THE REASONS ADVANCED ARE THE REAL ONES AND THAT THEIR MAJESTIES BOTH FEEL STRONGLY ABOUT THEIR FIRST RESPONSIBILITY TO THE THAI PEOPLE IN A TIME OF TROUBLE. THAWISAN SAID HIS MAJESTY WISHED TO UNDERLINE TO ME HIS CONCERNS ABOUT THE "FLUIDITY" OF THE PRESENT SITUATION, WHICH I UNDERSTOOD FROM THAWISAN REFERS TO MEAN POLITICAL FERMENT IN STUDENT AND INTELLECTUAL CIRCLES GOING ON BENEATH THE SURFACE WHICH HAS REACHED AN INTENSITY UNUSUAL FOR THAILAND.
UNGER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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